

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An apparatus for use with substantially tall tapered poles of a certain taper comprising:

- (a) a ~~non-structural~~ covering layer of plastic material~~[[;]]~~ ~~(b) — the layer~~ adapted for positioning ~~fixedly~~ around at least a part of a pole exterior; and
- (c) the layer being a fraction of an inch thick and being formable into a truncated cone of at least several inches diameter substantially matching said certain taper, so that when the truncated cone is operatively installed, downward movement along the pole is deterred by substantially matching the taper of the truncated cone with said certain taper.

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